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**Amendments to the Drawings:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 7 and 8. These sheets, which include FIGS. 7 and 8, replace the original sheets including FIGS. 7 and 8.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

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**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed July 26, 2005. Claims 1-11 and 14-26 are currently pending in the application. Claim 1 having been amended herein, claims 12 and 13 having been cancelled herein, claims 15-24 having been previously withdrawn, and new claims 25 and 26 having been added herein. Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully thanks the Examiner(s) for granting a personal interview in order to discuss the issues of the present application.

Applicant respectfully confirms the election, with traversal, of claims 1-14 for prosecution on the merits in the present application and the withdrawal, with traverse, of claims 15-24 from consideration in the present application. Applicant specifically reserves the right under 35 U.S.C. §121 to prosecute the nonelected subject matter of claims 15-24 by way of separate divisional applications.

In each of amended FIGS. 7 and 8, the previously omitted element numeral 200 has been added.

Claims 1-4 and 12-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,769,432 to Keifer. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 and 12-15 are not obvious and are allowable over Keifer.

Applicant submits that Keifer does not teach and/or suggest independent claim 1. Claim 1 as currently amended, is directed to a continuous positive airway pressure system, including, *inter alia*, an interface, and a pair of nasal cannulas in fluid communication with the interface,

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each nasal cannula being integrally connected to the interface via an annular trough extending from a base end portion of the nasal cannula to a surface of the interface, wherein each annular trough extends *completely around* a respective one of the nasal cannulas, wherein each annular trough has a *thickness which is less than* a thickness of the surface of the interface, the nasal cannulas being configured and dimensioned to deliver pressurized air to the nares of a patient, wherein the annular troughs allow for each nasal cannula to *at least one of move and pivot off axis.*

According to the present disclosure and as seen in FIGS. 7, 8 and 16-19, continuous positive airway pressure system 200 includes a pair of nasal cannulas 216a, 216b extending from a lower surface 202a thereof. Preferably, each nasal cannula 216a, 216b is surrounded by an annular trough or donut-like recess 232a, 232b, respectively, formed in lower surface 202a. Preferably, the thickness of the material making up recesses 232a, 232b is less than the thickness of continuous positive airway pressure system 200. In this manner, recesses 232a, 232b gives nasal cannulas 216a, 216b the ability to move and/or pivot off axis without kinking. (see page 12, lines 16-23).

Rather, Keifer is directed to a nostril piece 20 including a pair of nares receiving stems 22 extending from a block 24. While Keifer shows, in FIG. 2, that the stems 22 extend from a recess formed in the surface of block 24, it is respectfully submitted that said recess does not anticipate or render obvious the annular troughs which extend *completely around* a respective one of the nasal cannulas, as called for in claim 1. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Keifer fails to anticipate or render obvious an annular trough that has a *thickness which is less than* a thickness of the surface of the interface, as called for in claim 1.

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It is therefore respectfully submitted that, in view of the amendments made to claim 1 herein, and in view of the arguments presented above, that claim 1 is allowable over Keifer.

Since claims 2-4 and 12-14 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and contain all of the features of claim 1, for the reasons presented above regarding the patentability of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4 and 12-14 are also patentable over Keifer.

Claims 5, 6 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keifer in view of U.S. Patent 5,687,715 to Landis et al. It is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 6 and 8 are allowable over Keifer in view of Landis et al.

Landis is directed to a nasal positive airway pressure device which fails to remedy the deficiencies of Keifer. Accordingly, since claims 5, 6 and 8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and contain all of the features of claim 1, for the reasons presented above regarding the patentability of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5, 6 and 8 are also patentable over Keifer in view of Landis et al.

Claims 9-11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keifer in view of Landis et al. and U.S. Patent 6,422,238 to Lithgow. It is respectfully submitted that claims 9-11 are allowable over Keifer in view of Landis et al. and Lithgow.

Lithgow is directed to headgear for securing a respiratory mask which fails to remedy the deficiencies of Keifer and Landis et al. Accordingly, since claims 9-11 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and contain all of the features of claim 1, for the reasons presented above regarding the patentability of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claims 9-11 are also patentable over Keifer in view of Landis et al. and Lithgow.

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Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Keifer in view of Landis et al. and U.S. Patent 6,823,865 to Drew. It is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is allowable over Keifer in view of Landis et al. and Drew.

Drew is directed to a vent assembly which is suitable for use with a respiratory mask. Drew fails to remedy the deficiencies of Keifer and Landis et al. Accordingly, since claim 7 depends indirectly from claim 1 and contains all of the features of claim 1, for the reasons presented above regarding the patentability of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is also patentable over Keifer in view of Landis et al. and Drew.

In view of the amendments made to the claims and the drawings, and in view of the remarks presented above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of the claims in the present Office Action have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is allowable.

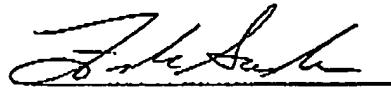
Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

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An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Francesco Sardone  
Registration No. 47,918  
Attorney for Applicant

***Carter, De Luca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP***  
445 Broad Hollow Rd., Suite 225  
Melville, New York 11747  
Tel.: (631) 501-5700  
Fax.: (631) 501-3526